



*The Department of Services for
Children, Youth and Their Families*

News

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Delaware Meets Federally Mandated Child Safety, Permanency and Well-Being Goals

WILMINGTON – The Delaware Children’s Department has met or exceeded federal goals for safety, permanency and well-being outcomes for children in the Department’s care. As a result, the Department has been released by Administration for Children and Families (ACF) from continued monitoring of its program improvement plan. While final reports are out on all 50 states, Delaware, Minnesota and Vermont are the only three states to have met or exceeded the goals and been released from monitoring.

“I am proud to say that Delaware has met all of the mandated outcomes for children in our care,” said Cabinet Secretary Cari DeSantis. “Early in Governor Ruth Ann Minner’s administration she signed an executive order directing the Children’s Department to make child safety our first priority. This positive evaluation of our Performance Improvement Plan and our release from further review shows the commitment the Department has made in keeping with this priority.”

In 2001, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ ACF conducted an intensive review of Delaware’s child protective, foster care, adoption, family preservation, family support and independent living services. Since that time, the Division of Family Services developed and implemented a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) to address certain factors and outcomes that evaluated strengths and needs.

“Meeting the review performance improvement plan goals for safety, permanency and well-being are further proof that we are meeting the expectations of the federal government, our governor, but most importantly, our children and families,” said Secretary DeSantis. “Under the guidance of Governor Minner and with the assistance of our many dedicated partners, we have worked hard to improve our foster care system, increased mental health services, opened transitional housing for youth leaving Ferris School, and created a new Holistic Services Team to work with children and families with intense and special needs. All of these positive changes relate to our improvement plan and these are changes we have made together.”

On any given day, the Children’s Department provides services to approximately 8,200 children who have been abused, neglected, are dependent, have mental health or substance problems, and/or have been adjudicated delinquent by the Courts. For more information, please visit <http://www.state.de.us/kids/>.

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